

HARRY TEAGUE

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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3102

August 30, 2010

COMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND  
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WATER, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HEALTH

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you today to inform you about a very unfortunate and disappointing event that occurred in my district a few weeks ago.

At the beginning of August, the City of Deming contacted my office to inform me that the graves of veterans interred at the local cemetery had been desecrated. Several VA-issued bronze burial markers were either stolen or damaged in an attempt to steal them, most likely to sell the markers as scrap metal.

Upon hearing of this disgrace, I immediately convened a conference with the veterans' family members and the city to let them know that I would do everything I could to get the markers replaced as quickly as possible. Since then, I have toured the cemetery to review the damage myself, and I have dispatched my staff to collect the paperwork that is required to get replacement markers ordered and shipped to the cemetery. I expect to have all the relevant documents sent to the VA by the end of this week.

This indignity to America's heroes must be rectified as quickly as possible. The freedoms that are enjoyed by you and I today were provided by these veterans, and this blemish on our nation's commitment to honor those who sacrificed for their country must be erased. I respectfully request that you assist me in having these requests for new markers expedited so that we can honor these veterans with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague  
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICES: